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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/613,160	07/03/2003	Truong Nguyen	9817-155/COA	9186
27572	7590	03/29/2004	EXAMINER	
HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.			VORTMAN, ANATOLY	
P.O. BOX 828			ART UNIT	
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303			PAPER NUMBER	

2835
DATE MAILED: 03/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

my

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/613,160	Applicant(s) NGUYEN, TRUONG	
	Examiner Anatoly Vortman	Art Unit 2835	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. The submission of the amendment filed on 02/13/04 is acknowledged. At this point claims 1, 2, 8, and 12 have been amended. Claims 1-12 are pending in the instant application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 8, 9, and 12, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US/4,533,894 to Bishop et al., (Bishop).

Regarding claims 8, 9, and 12, Bishop disclosed (Fig. 1-7), a bimetal snap disc thermostat comprising:

a phenolic body assembly ((10, 11, 17); column 2, line 35) having a predetermined thermal limit;

a switch (18, 22, 23) in said body assembly (10, 11, 17);

a bimetal snap disc (16) mounted on said body assembly (10, 11, 17);

an operator (29) operating said switch (18, 22, 23) in response to snap movement of said bimetallic snap disc (16);

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said snap disc (16) and said body (10, 11, 17) together defining a substantially enclosed heater chamber (33) containing air;

a pair of heater terminals (39, 41) extending outwardly from said heater chamber (33) through apertures (42) provided in said body assembly (10, 11, 17) for connection to a power supply;

a plurality of resistance heaters (34, 36) within said chamber (33) and positioned on opposite sides of the operator (29), each of said heaters (34, 36) having plurality of leads (37) and (38), said plurality of leads (37, 38) being secured to respective ones of said heater terminals (39, 41), said heater terminals (39, 41) including at least one projection (44, 46) extending therefrom, said at least one projection (44, 46) operable to engage said body assembly (10, 11, 17) to support said heaters (34, 36) via said leads (37, 38) by said heater terminals (39, 41) in spaced relationship to said body assembly (10, 11, 17) and in closely spaced proximity to said snap disc (16).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 10 and 11, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bishop.

Regarding claim 10, Bishop disclosed all of the claims limitations as apply to claims 8 and 9 above, but did not specify that the spacing between at least one of said resistance heater and said bimetal snap disc is within a range of about .082" to .062" and the spacing between said heaters and said body is .015".

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the thermal switch art at the time the invention was made, to provide any suitable spacing between said heater, said body and said snap disc in order to provide the thermostat of Bishop with specific tripping characteristics, since said spacing is a result effective variable, i.e., the variable which achieves a recognized result (i.e. specific temperature depression and, thus specific snapping / tripping points of the bimetal disc / thermostat). It has been held that determination of the optimum or workable ranges or of the proper value of said variable might be characterized as routine experimentation. *In re Antonie*, 559 F.2d 618, 195 USPC 6 (CCPA 1977), and involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Regarding claim 11, Bishop disclosed that said resistance heaters (34, 36) are positioned on opposite sides of operator (29) (Fig. 1).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-7 are allowed since claim 1 recites: "at least one tapered surface". The aforementioned limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of claim 1 are believed to render claims 1-7 patentable over the art of record.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anatoly Vortman whose telephone number is 571-272-2047. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, between 10:00 am and 6:30 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Darren Schuberg can be reached on 571-272-2800, ext 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AV.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. Vortman', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Anatoly Vortman
Primary Examiner
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